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1968/01/28

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96261

AVDHI-GC

28 January 1968

SUBJECT: MFR Pleiku Defense

TO: Commanding General
I Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: Chief of Staff
APO San Francisco 96350

1. The Memorandum for Record at Inclosure 1 is forwarded for your information.

2. On 23 January 1968, the Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division, conducted a briefing for all major commanders in the Pleiku Complex, subject: Pleiku Defense.

3. The briefing covered the following general subjects: the analysis of current intelligence, the current defensive posture of the Pleiku Complex, and actions being taken by the 4th Infantry Division to assist the present defensive posture of the Pleiku Complex.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
as

CHARLES R. SNIFFIN
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

[redacted]

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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1. Personnel attending the 230930 January briefing on Pleiku security measures were:

CO, 633d Combat SF Group, COL Hullar, USAF.
CO, Pleiku Sub-Area Commander, COL Miller.
CO, 52d Artillery Group, COL Halligren.
CO, 937th Engineer Group, COL Marshall.
CO, 43d Signal Battalion, LTC Debown.
CO, 52d Aviation Battalion, LTC Crieg.
CO, 71st Evac Hospital, LTC Green.
CO, 5th Special Forces, LTC Emmons.
CO, DIVARTY, COL McAllister.
Senior Advisor Pleiku Province, MAJ Craig.
CofS, II Corps Advisory Group, LTC McKeown.

2. Opening remarks by General Stone outlining the scope of the briefing:

a. To discuss the recent intelligence gathered from our resources that indicate a major buildup of enemy forces and an impending attack on the Pleiku Complex.

b. What actions the 4th Division will take to assist and reinforce the Pleiku Complex.

c. General Stone emphasized that he did not desire to [redacted] authority of the Pleiku Defense Coordinator. The reason for the [redacted] is to disseminate intelligence that we have collected.

3. LTC McKeown addressed the meeting and discussed the following

VDDH-GC-P 23 January 1968
SUBJECT: Pleiku Defense

a. The current plan for the defense of Pleiku.

b. Proposed new plan for the defense of Pleiku.

COMMENT: CG stated that this was not the time to initiate the new plan. He recommended that the old plan should remain in effect through the TET period. LTC McKeown concurred.

c. Tactical units in the Pleiku area presently available now and those that would be available for the Pleiku defense during the TET period.

COMMENT: CG asked, are ARVN forces standing down, in the light of the existing threat to Pleiku, and if they are when?

COMMENT: LTC McKeown replied that they do intend to stand down for TET.

d. The joint tactical control center.

e. FSCE.

f. Rules of Engagement as pertains to firing on villages within the Pleiku area.

g. 4th Div requirements in executing OPLAN CHASE.

COMMENT: The CG asked the following questions concerning OPLAN CHASE:

(1) Where does my responsibility start geographically and where does it end?

(2) Under what conditions would I assume command and [illegible] would notify 4th Div if the situation arose where the defense coordinator no longer was capable of effective control of the situation?

COMMENT: LTC McKeown pointed out the 4th Div area [illegible] responsibility. He also explained that information as to the [illegible] Pleiku defense would be relayed through the 52d Artillery [illegible] decision to assume command would have to be a matter of judgment.

AVDDH-GC-P 28 January 1968
SUBJECT: Pleiku Defense

COMMENT: MAJ Craig, operations officer, Pleiku Sector stated that he has started to implace gun positions in downtown Pleiku.

4. G2, 4th Div briefed on the enemy situation.

5. CG briefed on his analysis of the enemy situation, the enemy's intentions and what actions the 4th Div is taking and would take in reaction to the threat. In addition, the CG assigned the following tasks:

a. Exploitation platoon be placed OPCON to 52d Arty Gp for added security at Artillery Hill. CO, 52d Arty Gp concurred.

b. Armor TF now OPCON ROK Forces vic Qui Nhon be placed OPCON CO, 633d SF Group for security of New Pleiku Air Field upon their return.

c. That the G3 insure that all LZ's are reconnoitered in connection with OPLAN CHASE.

d. That the G3 and G2 determine the most likely position the enemy would select to block reinforcements into Pleiku City. Further, that the unit's designated to relieve the blocking positions including gunships, practice the reduction of the proposed blocking positions.

e. Determine the total number of flare ships available and where they are located. He suggested that ground alert flareships be placed on station alert NLT 27 Jan.

f. Rig some of our helicopters with flares.

6. CG emphasized the importance of the following points:

a. Insuring that all indigenous workers be strictly accounted for to insure none stay on the post or camp after dark.

b. The Division procedure for firing final protective fire in the event of a mortar attack.

AVDDH-GC-P 28 January 1968
SUBJECT: Pleiku Defense

c. He emphasized why the meeting was called and extended an offer to brief General Vinh Loc on the subjects discussed.

PETER P. PETRO
LTC, GS
ACofS, G3